

CLAIMS:

1. A valve for an air-bag, the valve comprising a fixed component, the fixed component having a mount to mount the component to an air-bag or a gas generator housing, the fixed component defining at least one aperture, the valve incorporating a moveable component configured to be exposed to pressure from inflating gas within the air-bag, the moveable component also being configured to be slidably engaged with the fixed component and having at least one aperture formed therein, the components having an initial position in which the aperture in fixed component is totally off-set from the or each aperture in the movable component, and the movable component being movable relative to the fixed component, under the action of gas pressure within the air-bag, to a position in which at least part of the or each aperture formed in the movable component is co-aligned with the aperture in the fixed component thus creating a vent flow passage for gas from the interior of the air-bag or the gas generator housing.

2. A valve according to Claim 1 when mounted on an air-bag or a gas generator housing.

3. A valve according to Claim 1 wherein the fixed component comprises a tubular housing, the or each aperture of the fixed component being formed in a side-wall of the tubular housing.

4. A valve according to Claim 3 wherein the tubular housing is provided with a flange at one end to act as said mount.

5. A valve according to Claim 3 wherein the movable component comprises a cylindrical housing, the cylindrical housing being configured to be received as a sliding and substantially sealing fit within the tubular housing of the fixed component, there being an element to maintain the movable component in said initial position relative to the fixed component.

6. A valve according to Claim 5 wherein the or each aperture of the movable component is formed within the side-wall of the cylindrical housing.

7. A valve according to Claim 5 wherein the element to maintain the movable component in said initial position relative to the fixed component is a spring, the spring surrounding the cylindrical housing of the movable component and being engaged by a flange carried on the movable component and the mount of the fixed component.

8. A valve according to Claim 5 wherein the movable component is provided with one or more deformable elements which engage part of the fixed component to hold the movable component in said initial position relative to the fixed component, the or each deformable element being configured to deform when gas pressure is applied to the movable component to permit the movable component to move relative to the fixed component.

9. A valve according to Claim 1 wherein the fixed component has a single aperture.

10. A valve according to Claim 1 wherein the fixed component has a plurality of apertures.

11. A valve according to Claim 1 wherein the or each aperture of the movable component is of rectangular form.

12. A valve according to Claim 1 wherein the or each aperture of the movable component is of triangular form.

13. A valve according to Claim 1 wherein the or each aperture of the movable element is of irregular form.

14. A valve according to Claim 1 wherein the movable component is moved relative to the fixed component in response to a signal representative of a parameter.

15. A valve according to Claim 14 wherein the parameter relates to the weight of a seat occupant.

16. A valve according to Claim 15 wherein the parameter relates to an indicator of accident severity.